| | |
|---|---|
| **From:** | Lyssy, Gregory |
| **To:** | Marquis, James; Frazee, Daniel |
| **Cc:** | Schaefer, Jeremy R; R6HarveyInfo; McAteer, Mike |
| **Subject:** | RE: EPA Investigating "Potentially Hazardous" Plume From Houston Refinery - TX-MMC Update 173 [HARVEY Response and Recovery Effort - Gulf Coast, U.S.] NOC 0604-17 |
| **Date:** | Wednesday, September 6, 2017 8:13:08 AM |

Good morning Jim/Dan:

Here is the latest EPA info on the Valero Manchester Refinery.

- EPA continues to respond to concerns about air quality associated with emissions from the Valero Houston Refinery
- On the date of the incident (08.27.17), Valero notified the NRC (#1188510 at 1156 hrs), the R6 hotline, the General Land Office (GLO), City of Houston (Bureau of Pollution Control & Prevention), Galena Park LEPC, and the CAER Line Messaging center which provides a recorded message of incident. Other calls included; 1) Harris County (left message), 2) Houston LEPC (no answer), Pasadena LEPC (no answer). Valero was also contacted by PHMSA.
- The EPA OSC conducted an assessment of the damaged tank at the Valero refinery located at 9701 Manchester Road, Houston, Tx. The #3 tank was damaged during the storm and flooding but the leak has been repaired.
- Air monitoring has been conducted north of 225 and west of 610 in the vicinity of the Valero Manchester Refinery.
- EPA teams are utilizing a multiRae and a multiRae pro. Air monitoring was conducted for VOCs, CO, H2S, SO2, O2, and LEL with an UltraRae configured for benzene detection. The highest reading detected for VOCs was 0.33 ppm. Benzene was not detected using the multiRae or multiRae pro.
- EPA's Trace Atmospheric Gas Analyzer (TAGA) conducted air monitoring in southeast Houston around the Valero Refinery. The TAGA detected benzene below the TCEQ Short term ESL of 53 ppb. The Houston Health Department (HDD) has been utilizing TCEQ Short Term ESL numbers for air monitoring.
- EPA air enforcement and TCEQ are having regular calls with Valero regarding the repair and status of the facility.
- Late last night, the City of Houston reported their mobile MAAML found benzene at 5.23 ppb and a summa canister reading for benzene at 334 ppb.
- EPA is sending letters to facilities in the Manchester neighborhood of Houston, encouraging the facilities to conduct surveys and monitoring to identify and address any unauthorized sources of VOCs.

Let me know if you need more information, and we will keep you posted.

*Greg J. Lyssy*
U.S. EPA
Senior Project Manager
RCRA Corrective Action (6MM-RC)
1445 Ross Avenue

7002911

Dallas, TX  75202
Phone - 214.665.8317
Cell Phone - 214.543.4415
lyssy.gregory@epa.gov

---

**From:** Marquis, James [mailto:james.marquis@fema.dhs.gov]
**Sent:** Wednesday, September 06, 2017 6:27 AM
**To:** McAteer, Mike <mcateer.mike@epa.gov>
**Cc:** Schaefer, Jeremy R <Jeremy.Schaefer2@fema.dhs.gov>; Lyssy, Gregory <lyssy.gregory@epa.gov>; R6HarveyInfo <R6HarveyInfo@epa.gov>
**Subject:** Re: EPA Investigating 'Potentially Hazardous' Plume From Houston Refinery - TX-MMC Update 173 [HARVEY Response and Recovery Effort - Gulf Coast, U.S.] NOC 0604-17

Thanks Mike, assumed it was well in hand but now that the press has elevated it I'm sure there will be questions tomorrow.

Jim

V/r
James W. Marquis | Emergency Services Branch Director | National Incident Management Assistance Team - West | 202.384.5597 | james.marquis@fema.dhs.gov
Currently deployed to Texas as Deputy ESBD for FEMA-4332-DR-TX Hurricane Harvey

---

**From:** "McAteer, Mike" <mcateer.mike@epa.gov>
**Date:** Tuesday, September 5, 2017 at 9:51:48 PM
**To:** "Marquis, James" <james.marquis@fema.dhs.gov>
**Cc:** "Schaefer, Jeremy R" <Jeremy.Schaefer2@fema.dhs.gov>, "Lyssy, Gregory" <lyssy.gregory@epa.gov>, "R6HarveyInfo" <R6HarveyInfo@epa.gov>
**Subject:** RE: EPA Investigating 'Potentially Hazardous' Plume From Houston Refinery - TX-MMC Update 173 [HARVEY Response and Recovery Effort - Gulf Coast, U.S.] NOC 0604-17

> Jim…. EPA is aware of the situation at Valero in the Manchester neighborhood and has an OSC on site…. I will get more information on the situation tomorrow and keep you all updated.  Thanks.

Region-6-EPA-200X200

**Mike McAteer**
**Federal On-Scene Coordinator**
**U.S. EPA**
1445 Ross Ave
Suite 1200 (6SF-ER)
Dallas, Texas  75202
(214) 354 9371 (mobile)
(214) 665 7157 (office)
mcateer.mike@epa.gov

---

**From:** Marquis, James [mailto:james.marquis@fema.dhs.gov]

**Sent:** Tuesday, September 05, 2017 7:11 PM
**To:** McAteer, Mike <mcateer.mike@epa.gov>
**Cc:** Schaefer, Jeremy R <Jeremy.Schaefer2@fema.dhs.gov>
**Subject:** FW: EPA Investigating 'Potentially Hazardous' Plume From Houston Refinery - TX-MMC Update 173 [HARVEY Response and Recovery Effort - Gulf Coast, U.S.] NOC 0604-17

Hi Mike,

This has visibility so whatever updates come in please pass them along.

Thanks,

Jim

**James W. Marquis**
**Emergency Services Branch Director | National Incident Management Assistance Team - West | 202.384.5597 | james.marquis@fema.dhs.gov**
**Currently deployed to Texas as Deputy ESBD for FEMA-4332-DR-TX Hurricane Harvey**

---

**From:** Chandler, Jacqueline
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 05, 2017 7:07 PM

**Subject:** FW: EPA Investigating 'Potentially Hazardous' Plume From Houston Refinery - TX-MMC Update 173 [HARVEY Response and Recovery Effort - Gulf Coast, U.S.] NOC 0604-17
**From:** NOC Media Monitoring [mailto:mmc@techopsolutions.net]
**Sent:** Tuesday, September 5, 2017 7:50 PM
**To:** noc.mmc@hq.dhs.gov
**Subject:** EPA Investigating 'Potentially Hazardous' Plume From Houston Refinery - TX-MMC Update 173 [HARVEY Response and Recovery Effort - Gulf Coast, U.S.] NOC 0604-17

**Location(s): Houston, Texas**
The city of Houston, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and an environmental advocacy group are investigating a potentially hazardous plume of a carcinogenic substance in one neighborhood after a nearby oil refiner reported its operations suffered hurricane-related damage, media reported Tuesday.

The city and the Environmental Defense Fund said extra air monitors dispatched to Houston's Manchester region on Monday detected the presence of benzene, a component of crude oil and gasoline. Two monitors detected significantly different levels of the carcinogen at different times of the day, and additional sampling is needed to determine the concentration, according to senior scientists involved in the investigation.

The EPA said it deployed an air monitor to the area to help the investigation. Officials are

seeking to pinpoint the source of the benzene plume, the concentration and how far-reaching the emissions may have spread, officials said.

The Manchester oil refinery is a subsidiary of Valero Energy Partners and said the leak on August 27 resulted in the emission of benzene and other hazardous compounds. A statement said the company's air-quality monitoring found "no detectable levels of emissions in the community."

Valero's disclosure was one of 56 preliminary emissions reports citing Hurricane Harvey that the state received from petroleum and chemical companies as of August 31. Those Harvey-related emissions released nearly 1 million pounds of seven toxic compounds, including benzene, the state reported.

**Traditional Media Sources** (some page content may change or not be available over time):
**- Wall Street Journal**
-- http://on.wsj.com/2gEbzvl

---

***The above information summarizes emerging open source reporting that has not been corroborated by official government sources. It is provided to rapidly enhance situational awareness on items of interest to the homeland security enterprise.***

---

**Kyle R. Brady**
**Operations Analyst**
**DHS NOC Media Monitoring**
**Phone: 703-574-4649**
**Cell: 703-994-0780**